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July 10, 2014

**VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL**

Ms. Caroline Kwan  
Remedial Project Manager  
Special Projects Branch  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 20th Floor  
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 36 – June 2014  
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

### ***1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month***

- Several technical exchanges and discussions regarding the preparation and finalization of the *Phase 2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan* (Phase 2 RI Work Plan) Volumes 1 and 2 were held in June. The dates and details of these exchanges and discussions are provided in the following:
  - **June 3:** USEPA provided a proposed approach for obtaining groundwater seepage measurements during Phase 2.
  - **June 4:** The NCG submitted the revised Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2.
  - **June 5:** USEPA provided the final analyte list to be measured in sediment porewater during Phase 2. USEPA also provided comments on select Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2 text.
  - **June 6:** The NCG submitted a final Phase 2 RI Work Plan. USEPA approved the final Phase 2 RI Work Plan except for: 1) Section 5 Point Sources, Categories 2, 3A, and 3C and associated sections of appendices; and 2) Section 6 Groundwater and associated sections of appendices.
  - **June 11:** NCG submitted the revised *Phase 2 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan – Volume 2 Addendum No. 1* (FSAP Addendum No. 1) and *Phase 2 Quality Assurance Project Plan* (QAPP) for Phase 2 groundwater sampling activities to USEPA.
  - **June 12:** USEPA directed the NCG to remove pharmaceuticals, personal care products, pathogens, and endocrine disruptors (3Ps) from the Phase 2 RI Work Plan.
  - **June 19:** The NCG indicated its general agreement with USEPA's proposed approach for obtaining groundwater seepage measurements during Phase 2.
  - **June 23:** The NCG and USEPA discussed via teleconference details of the USEPA proposed approach for obtaining groundwater seepage measurements during Phase 2.
  - **June 24:** USEPA provided comments on the revised FSAP Addendum No. 1 and QAPP for Phase 2 groundwater sampling activities.
  - **June 30:** The NCG submitted a revised FSAP Addendum No. 1 and QAPP for Phase 2 groundwater sampling activities that reflected the USEPA comments received on June 24.

- The *Phase 2 RI Field Program – QAPP/FSAP Deviation Memorandum No. 1* was submitted to USEPA on June 9. This memorandum detailed deviations associated with the following: 1) sample container types and method updates; 2) number of bioaccumulation replicates; 3) field measurements that were inadvertently not obtained; and 4) field samples that were not submitted to laboratories, either due to not being collected as planned and/or jar breakage during transport to the laboratory.
- Phase 2 point sources sampling coordination and logistics meetings/calls were held on June 12, June 20, and June 26.
- The draft *Preliminary Modeling Results Memorandum* and associated hydrodynamic and sediment transport model files were provided to USEPA on June 16.
- Based on observations during in-field reconnaissance, a request to re-locate select transects associated with the Continuous Surface Water Monitoring During Point Source Discharge Events program (and co-located sampling locations in the Total Suspended Solids [TSS] Concentration Sampling program) was submitted to USEPA on June 30.
- The Phase 2 field investigation continued in June. Specifically, the following activities were performed:
  - Surface sediment sampling in the Study Area (continued through June)
  - Surface sediment sampling in the reference areas (completed week of June 16)
  - Wildlife surveys in the reference areas (completed week of June 23)
  - Fish and crab tissue sampling in the Study Area (completed week of June 23)
  - Subsurface sediment sampling (started week of June 9; continued through June)
  - East River surface water sampling (completed week of June 16)
  - Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) and Acoustic Doppler Velocimeters (ADVs) (reconnaissance the week of June 16; installation began the week of June 23)
  - Sediment traps (deployed week of June 9)
  - Point sources field reconnaissance visits
    - City of New York locations (June 3)
      - NCQ-077, NCB-083, Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Influent, Newtown Creek WWTP (NCB-002), NCB-629, NCB-631, NCQ-632, NCQ-633, and Greenpoint Marine Transfer Station and Incinerator (NCB-432)

- Meeker Avenue – overland flow, Waste Management of NY/Steel Equities (formerly POW); Town, County and State Recycling, Inc.; and Hugo Neu Schnitzer (June 10)
- Malu Properties/Former Ditmas Oil/Former Gulf Oil and Former Laurel Hill Site (June 19)
- Empire Merchants/Former Paragon Oil Terminal (June 27)
- NCB-083, NCB-629, NCB-631, NCB-632 site walk to evaluate traffic conditions with the City of New York (June 27)
- Point sources sampling
  - Con Edison - 11th Street Conduit (June 18)
  - ExxonMobil Greenpoint Remediation Project (June 19)
- The following activities continued in June:
  - Point sources field reconnaissance visits coordination
  - Phase 2 field program planning

***2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month***

- Quality control review of field data from the Phase 2 risk surface water, East River surface water, and reference area surface sediment programs was completed. The field data for these program elements are included on the enclosed compact disc (CD).

***3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them***

- None.

***4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion***

- Project update meetings and/or teleconferences with USEPA are scheduled for July 10 and August 14. Modeling Workshop No. 4 is also planned for August 14.
- Approval of the draft Phase 2 groundwater FSAP Addendum No. 1 and QAPP by USEPA is planned for July. Mobilization for the groundwater-related field work is planned for July.

- A point sources dry run for sampling at the City of New York locations is planned for July.
- Continue the Phase 2 field investigation in July, including:
  - Subsurface sediment sampling
  - East River surface water sampling
  - ADCPs and ADVs deployment
  - Sediment traps retrieval and redeployment
  - Low dissolved oxygen (DO) surface sediment sampling in the Study Area and reference areas (planned for August)
  - Low DO wildlife surveys in the reference areas (planned for August)
  - Low DO fish and crab tissue sampling (planned for August)
  - Point sources field reconnaissance visits and coordination

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: [jquadrini@anchorqea.com](mailto:jquadrini@anchorqea.com)).

Sincerely,



Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE

Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel  
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